

## *JESUS' SECOND COMING*

### 1. Definition.

- a. Jesus' second coming is his future, soon, sudden, personal, visible, bodily return from heaven to earth at which time he will defeat his enemies, bring the seven-year tribulation to a close, and inaugurate the 1000-year Messianic kingdom.

### 2. Images.

- a. Gandalf the White in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Two Towers*.



### 3. Importance.

- a. Jesus' second coming is the crowning event of history.
  - (1) "The general theme concerning the return of Christ has the unique distinction of being the first prophecy uttered by man (Jude 1:14–15) and the last message from the ascended Christ as well as being the last word of the Bible (Rev. 22:20–21). Likewise, the theme of the second coming of Christ is unique because of the fact that it occupies a larger part of the text of the Scriptures than any other doctrine, and it is the outstanding theme of prophecy in both the Old and New Testaments. In fact, all other prophecy largely contributes to the one great end of the complete setting forth of this crowning event—the second coming of Christ."<sup>1</sup>
  - (2) **Jud 14-15** 14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied saying, Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, 15 to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.
  - (3) **Re 22:20** 20 He who testifies to these things says, Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

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<sup>1</sup> Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 4 (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 306.

#### 4. Relationship to Jesus' First Coming.

- a. It is the same Jesus we are dealing with, but under very different circumstances.

First Coming	Session	Second Coming
Lamb		Lion
Saviour		Conqueror
Prophet	Priest	King
Because of sin		Apart from sin
Meek and lowly		Power and glory
Rejected by men		Ruler of men
Salvation		Judgment
Literal fulfilment		Literal fulfilment

- b. In the Old Testament, prophecies of Jesus' first and second comings are mentioned together but never confused.

(1) "...[T]here is no separate treatment of either advent in the Old Testament, though the events related to each are never confused. There is no identification of one as removed in point of time from the other. As in the Second Psalm, the Messiah is first seen before the nations and their kings as One to be rejected, which attitude belongs to the first advent and those relationships which grew out of it. Later, and as indicated in verses 6-9, He takes His throne and becomes the conquering Monarch of the whole earth. The remainder of the Psalm reverts to the first advent relationship wherein kings and rulers are admonished to make peace with the Son *before* His wrath is kindled but a little. From the first Messianic prophecy of Genesis on to the time of His official rejection by Israel, which rejection was enacted by His crucifixion, the two advents must be distinguished wholly by the character of the events ascribed to each."<sup>2</sup>

The Old Testament Perspective: The Coming of Christ



- c. Israel's rejection of Jesus at his first coming necessitated a second coming.  
(1) Jesus' first coming offer to Israel was a bona fide offer.
- d. The church age and tribulation are now two time periods that must occur between Jesus' first and second comings.  
(1) **Ac 1:6-8** 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? 7 He said to them, It is not for you to

<sup>2</sup> Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 4:305.

know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

- e. The two comings are both literal.
  - (1) “The prophecies of the first group were literally and minutely fulfilled at Christ’s first advent 1,900 years ago. The prophecies of the second group will have the same minute and literal fulfillment at His second advent.”<sup>3</sup>

## 5. Characteristics.

- a. Future.
  - (1) **Re 22:20** 20 He who testifies to these things says, Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
  - (2) Apostles’ Creed: “Christ...will come again to judge the living and the dead...”
  - (3) Nicene Creed: “He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end....”
  - (4) False beliefs:
    - (a) Preterism A: Jesus’ coming in judgment was fulfilled in ad 67-70 (destruction of Jerusalem) or ad 132-135 ad (Bar Kochba revolt).
    - (b) Preterism B: Jesus’ coming was fulfilled non-literally in the fourth and fifth centuries ad with the defeat of paganism and heresy at the time of Constantine.
    - (c) Preterism C: Jesus’ coming was for a long time future, but it has at least partially been fulfilled in recent history.
    - (d) Partial preterism: some future events will still occur.
    - (e) Hyper-preterism: Jesus’ second coming is unnecessary.
    - (f) Jehovah’s Witnesses: Jesus is already enthroned.
- b. Soon.
  - (1) **Jas 5:7-9** 7 Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door.
  - (2) **Re 22:7** 7 And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.
  - (3) **Re 22:12** 12 Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.
  - (4) **Re 22:20** 20 He who testifies to these things says, Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
  - (5) “On the one hand, there are many passages encouraging us to be ready because Christ will return at an hour we do not expect. On the other hand, there are several passages that speak of certain events that will happen before Christ returns.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 4 (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 309.

<sup>4</sup> Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 1095.

- (6) “The prophets were little interested in chronology, and the future was always viewed as imminent...the Old Testament prophets blended the near and the distant perspectives so as to form a single canvas. Biblical prophecy is not primarily three-dimensional but two; it has height and breadth but is little concerned about depth, i.e., the chronology of future events...the distant is viewed through the transparency of the immediate. It is true that the early church lived in expectancy of the return of the Lord, and it is the nature of biblical prophecy to make it possible for every generation to live in expectancy of the end.”<sup>5</sup>
- (7) Biblical prophets often speak in terms of “prophetic foreshortening,” which sees future events but does not see the intervening time before those events occur.<sup>6</sup>
- (8) **2 Pe 3:8-9** 8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
- c. Sudden.
- (1) **Mt 24:44** 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
- (2) **Mt 24:50** 50 ...The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know....
- (3) **Mt 25:13** 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.
- (4) **Mk 13:32-33** 32 But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.
- (5) **Lk 12:40** 40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
- (6) **1 Th 5:2-6** 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, There is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers and sisters, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.
- d. Bodily, personal.
- (1) **Ac 1:9-11** 9 And when [Jesus] had said these things, as [the apostles] were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.
- (2) False beliefs:
- (a) Jesus “returned” in Ac 2 (Jn 14.16-20, Mt 28:20).

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<sup>5</sup> George Eldon Ladd, *A Commentary on the Revelation of John* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972), 22, quoted in Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 1097.

<sup>6</sup> Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 1097.

- (b) Jesus “returns” to believers individually in a personal encounter or at conversion (Ac 9:3-5; Col 1:27).
- (c) Jesus “returns” to take each believer to heaven (Jn 14:3).
- e. Visible.
  - (1) **Mt 24:30** 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
  - (2) **Lk 21:27** 27 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
  - (3) **Re 1:7** 7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes (φυλή) of the earth (γῆ) will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.
- f. Premillennial.
  - (1) **Ac 1:6-8** 6 So when [the apostles] had come together, they asked him, Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? 7 He said to them, It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
  - (2) **Re 20:4-6** 4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Messiah, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.
- g. From heaven.
  - (1) **Mt 24:30** 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
  - (2) **Mt 26:63-64** 63 But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God. 64 Jesus said to him, You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.
  - (3) **Ac 1:11** 11 ...Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.
  - (4) **Re 1:7** 7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.
- h. Summary.
  - (1) Jesus’ return is literal, not metaphorical, mythical, or symbolic.

## 6. Deception.

- a. Mt 24.5, 11

b. 1 Jn 2.18

## 7. Stages.

- a. Rapture.
- b. Return.

Rapture	Return
Comes in the air	Comes to earth
For his saints	With his saints
Believers depart	Unbelievers depart
Claims his bride	Comes with his bride
Comes to reward	Comes to judge
Not in OT	Often in OT
No signs	Many signs
Blessing	Judgment
In a quick moment	Visible to the world
Tribulation begins	Millenium begins

## 8. Prerequisites.

- a. Gospel preached to all nations.
  - (1) **Mt 24:14** 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
- b. Rise of the Antichrist.
  - (1) **2 Th 2:1-5** 1 Now concerning the coming (παρουσία) of our Lord Jesus Messiah and our being gathered together (ἐπισυναγωγή)<sup>7</sup> to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion (ἀποστασία) comes first, and the man of lawlessness [Antichrist] is revealed/disclosed/brought to light (ἀποκαλύπτω), the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat [at the midpoint of the tribulation] in the temple of God [in Jerusalem], proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?<sup>8</sup>
- c. Great tribulation.
  - (1) **Mt 24:21-22** 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days

<sup>7</sup> "...[A] gathering together to or toward at some location, *meeting*, of a Christian group...the action of ἐπισυνάγεσθαι, *assembling*" (BDAG, 382).

<sup>8</sup> Paul taught the Thessalonians about the end times during the one month he was with them.

had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

d. Signs in the heavens.

- (1) **Mt 24:29-30** 29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

## 9. Order of Events.

a. Gathering of Antichrist's Armies at Armageddon.

- (1) **Re 19:19** 19 And I saw the beast [Antichrist] and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him [Jesus] who was sitting on the horse and against his army.
- (2) "It should be noted that the passage says nothing of a battle in this valley, for no fighting will take place here. The Valley of Jezreel, guarded by the Mountain of Megiddo, will merely serve as the gathering ground for the armies of the Antichrist."<sup>9</sup>
- (3) Other views:
- (a) "Armageddon (the ancient hill and valley of Megiddo, west of Jordan in the plain of Jezreel) is the appointed place for the beginning of the great battle in which the Lord, at His coming in glory, will deliver the Jewish remnant besieged by the Gentile world-powers under the Beast and False Prophet (Rev. 16:13–16; Zech. 12:1–9). Apparently the besieging hosts, whose approach to Jerusalem is described in Isa. 10:28–32, alarmed by the signs which precede the Lord's coming (Mt. 24:29, 30), have fallen back to Megiddo, after the events of Zech. 14:2, where their destruction begins; a destruction consummated in Moab and the plains of Idumea (Isa. 63:1–6). This battle is the first event in 'the day of Jehovah' (Isa. 2:12), and is the fulfillment of the smiting-stone prophecy of Dan. 2:35"<sup>10</sup>
- (b) "As [Antichrist] proceeds with his program, however, the nations of the Orient will unite and attempt to stop him. To do this, they will march west into Palestine. The sixth bowl judgment will dry up the Euphrates River, speeding their entry into the Promised Land. In the meantime, Antichrist will have planted himself firmly in Palestine as a religious and political ruler. The battlefield in which the armies from East and West will meet will be the Plain of Esdraelon, the area around the mountains of Megiddo. That's why the battle is called Armageddon—Ar meaning mountain. This plain is about twenty miles south-southeast of Haifa, and the valley today is about twenty miles by fourteen."<sup>11</sup>

b. Fall of Jerusalem.

- (1) Mic 4.11-5.1; Zec 12.1-9; 14.1-5

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<sup>9</sup> Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *The Footsteps of the Messiah : A Study of the Sequence of Prophetic Events*, Rev. ed. (Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries, 2003), 312.

<sup>10</sup> *Scofield Reference Bible*, 1348-49, quoted in Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 4 (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 397-398.

<sup>11</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 555.

- (2) **Zec 12:9** 9 And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.
  - (3) **Zec 14:12** 12 And this shall be the plague with which Yahweh will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem. Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.
  - (4) **Re 14:17-20** 17 Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe. 19 So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trodden outside the city [Jerusalem], and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.
- c. Armies of the Antichrist at Bozrah.
    - (1) Jer 49.13-14, Mic 2.12
  - d. Repentance and regeneration of Israel.
    - (1) Ps 79-80; Is 53.1-9; 61.2-3; 64.1-12; Hos 5.15; 6.1-3; Joe 2.28-32; Zec 12.10-13.1, 7-9; 14.4; Mt 23.37-39; Ro 11.25-27
  - e. Signs in the heavens.
    - (1) Mt 24.29
  - f. Jesus' second coming per se, at Bozrah.
    - (1) Jdg 5.4-5; Is 34.1-7; 63.1-6; Hab 3.3; Mic 2.1-13; Mt 24.30; Re 19.11-16; Is 63.1-4; Jud 14-15; Jer 49.20-22
  - g. Destruction of Antichrist and his armies.
    - (1) Ps 2.7-9; 18:8-16; Is 63.1-6; Hab 3.1-19; Zec 14.12-15; 2 Th 2.8; Is 14.3-11, 16-21
    - (2) **Is 34:5-10** 5 For my sword has drunk its fill in the heavens. Behold, it descends for judgment upon Edom, upon the people I have devoted to destruction. 6 Yahweh has a sword. It is sated with blood. It is gorged with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For Yahweh has a sacrifice in Bozrah, a great slaughter in the land of Edom. 7 Wild oxen shall fall with them, and young steers with the mighty bulls. Their land shall drink its fill of blood, and their soil shall be gorged with fat. 8 For Yahweh has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion. 9 And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and her soil into sulphur. Her land shall become burning pitch. 10 Night and day it shall not be quenched. Its smoke shall go up forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste. None shall pass through it forever and ever.
    - (3) **Is 63:1-6** 1 Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save. 2 Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? 3 I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me. I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath. Their lifeblood spattered on my garments and stained all my apparel. 4 For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my

year of redemption had come. 5 I looked, but there was no one to help. I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold. So my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me. 6 I trampled down the peoples in my anger. I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.

- (4) “Viewing these three areas of the war together, we see a gruesome picture of unbelievable carnage encompassing the entire land from Megiddo in the north, Jerusalem in the center, and Edom in the southeast (about 140 miles).”<sup>12</sup>
- h. Great supper of God.  
(1) Eze 39.17-20; Re 19.17-21
  - i. Seventy-five day interval begins.  
(1) Da 12.11-12
  - j. Destruction of political-economic Babylon.  
(1) Re 18; Da 2.44-45
  - k. Resurrection and regathering of Israel.  
(1) Dt 30.1-8; Is 11:11-12; Jer 23:7-8; Eze 37:21-28; Mt 23.37; 24.31; Ro 11.26-27
  - l. Enthronement of Jesus.  
(1) Jer 33.17; Zec 14.3-5, 9; Mt 25.31  
(2) **Zec 14:3-4** 3 Then Yahweh will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. 4 On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.  
(3) **Ac 1:9-11** 9 And when [Jesus] had said these things, as [the apostles] were looking on, he was lifted up [from Olivet], and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.
  - m. Judgment of Israel.  
(1) Eze 20:33-44; Mt 16.27; 24:37-25:30; Da 12.13
  - n. Judgment of the nations at the Valley of Jehoshaphat.  
(1) Ge 12.1-3; Joe 3.1-17; Mt 25.31-46; 2 Th 1.8-1; Re 14.19-20  
(2) **Joe 3:1-3** 1 For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations, have divided up my land, 3 have cast lots for my people, have traded a boy for a prostitute, and have sold a girl for wine and have drunk it.
  - o. Sentence of Antichrist and False Prophet to the lake of fire.  
(1) Re 19:20
  - p. Satan bound and confined.  
(1) Re 20:20:1-3
  - q. Wedding feast.  
(1) Re 19:6-9

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<sup>12</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 555-56.

- (2) “It is with the Marriage Feast that the Millennium will begin, but the invitations are sent out just prior to the Second Coming. They go out to all the redeemed who are not members of the Church, i.e., the Old Testament and Tribulation saints soon to be resurrected.”<sup>13</sup>

## 10. Application.

- a. Eager longing.
- (1) **1 Co 16:22** 22 Our Lord, come (אָרְרָא תָא)!<sup>14</sup>
  - (2) **Php 3:20** 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Messiah....
  - (3) **Re 22:20** 20 He who testifies to these things says, Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
  - (4) “To some extent, then, the degree to which we actually long for Christ’s return is a measure of the spiritual condition of our own lives at the moment.”<sup>15</sup>
- b. Readiness.
- (1) **Lk 12:40** 40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
- c. Patience.
- (1) Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord ... Establish your hearts, for *the coming of the Lord is at hand ... Behold, the Judge is standing at the doors.* (James 5:7–9)
  - (2) **2 Pe 3:8-9** 8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
- d. Godliness.
- (1) Training us to ... live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, *awaiting our blessed hope* the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:12–13)
- e. Encouragement.
- (1) Encouraging one another, and all the more *as you see the Day drawing near.* (Heb. 10:25)
- f. Don’t guess the exact time.
- (1) Many have guessed and gotten it wrong.
    - (a) Jehovah’s Witnesses (on several occasions).
  - (2) “Anyone who claims to know the date on which Christ will return—from whatever source—should be rejected as incorrect.”<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *The Footsteps of the Messiah : A Study of the Sequence of Prophetic Events*, Rev. ed. (Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries, 2003), 344-345.

<sup>14</sup> “[O]ur Lord is the sign? = ‘the א and the ת’” (BDAG, 616).

<sup>15</sup> Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 1093.

<sup>16</sup> Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 1094.

- g. “Proclaim Christ until he comes.”<sup>17</sup>
  - (1) “[T]he gap between his two comings is to be filled with the Christian missionary enterprise. We have been told to go to the ends of the earth with the gospel, and we have been promised that the end of the age will come only when we have done so.”<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Lausanne Movement, *The Manila Manifesto* (1989).

<sup>18</sup> Lausanne Movement, *The Manila Manifesto* (1989).

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